

March 22, 2000, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09 429,755, filed October 28, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09 289,198, filed April 9, 1999, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/062,451, filed April 17, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,344,550, which is a continuation in part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08 991,789, filed December 11, 1997, now U.S. Patent No. 6,225,054, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/838,762, filed April 9, 1997, now abandoned, which **claims** priority from International Patent Application No. PCT/US97/00485, filed January 10, 1997, and is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/700,014, filed August 20, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/585,392, filed January 11, 1996, now abandoned.

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 20 to read as follows:

20. (Amended) A diagnostic kit comprising at least one oligonucleotide that hybridizes to SEQ ID NO: 301, under moderately stringent conditions, wherein said oligonucleotide hybridizes to at least a portion of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO:301 from nucleotide 1 to nucleotide 61.

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 18-20 are now in the case. Claim 20 has been amended. It is urged that support for all the above amendments may be found throughout the specification as originally filed (see for example, pages 25-30 and 97-99) and that none of the amendments constitute new matter. It should also be noted that the above amendments are not to be construed as acquiescence with regard to the Office's rejections. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any subject matter removed or modified by this amendment in a related divisional, continuation or continuation-in-part application. Applicants have also amended the specification to update the priority claims to reflect the change in status of two pending US patent applications to issued US patents.